

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** congenital heart defect is the most common birth defect and the leading cause of infant death from birth defects; and

**WHEREAS,** an estimated 36,000 babies in the United States are born with a congenital heart defect each year, many of whom, tragically, will not survive into adulthood because of the severity of the defect, the absence of early detection, a lack of donor hearts, or failure of the medical intervention used; and

**WHEREAS,** continued research and advancements in medical technologies can and have saved lives, as evidenced by the more than one million people living with congenital heart defects in the United States today; and

**WHEREAS,** Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides an opportunity to recognize the courage of children with heart defects and their families, remember loved ones lost to congenital heart defects, and honor the medical professionals who dedicate themselves to researching and treating this condition.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 7 - 14, 2006, as

### CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to raise awareness of the importance of early detection and intervention in saving the lives of children born with congenital heart defects.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mark Sanford".

**MARK SANFORD**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**